

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236632

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL PFOR OEXC HU

SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF ISTVAN DEAK - IREX GRANTEE

REF.: BUDAPEST 3818

1. IREX EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KASSOF CALLED DEPARTMENT MORNING OF NOV. 30 TO REPORT DEAK EXPULSION AND DISCUSS POSSIBLE IREX RESPONSE TO KKI. KASSOF SAID DEAK HAD TOLD HIM FROM VIENNA OF SMITH'S DISCUSSION WITH MFA AND SAID HE(DEAK) UNDERSTOOD AMBASSADOR WAS ALSO MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO MFA. DEAK REPORT TO KASSOF COINCIDED IN ALL IMPORTANT RESPECTS WITH INFO CONTAINED REFTEL.

2. KASSOF HAS CONSIDERED SEVERAL POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO WHAT HE CONSIDERS UNACCEPTABLE ACTION BY GOH. HE IS PRESENTLY INCLINED TO SEND THE FOLLOWING TELEX TO ROSTA BUT WILL NOT DO SO BEFORE EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT HAVE COMMENTED ON IT. QUOTE. AS CONSEQUENCE OF UNJUST EXPULSION OF PROFESSOR DEAK FROM HUNGARY AND PENDING SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS THUS CREATED, IREX IS IMMEDIATELY SUSPENDING ALL PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED GRANTS INVOLVING COOPERATIVE

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ACTIVITIES AND CONFERENCES WITH HUNGARY AND IS ACTIVELY CON-

SIDERING FULL SUSPENSION OF ALL PROGRAMS WITH KKI AS OF JANUARY 31, 1974. YOUR SCHOLARS HERE ARE BEING ALERTED TO THIS POSSIBILITY NOW IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE POTENTIAL DISRUPTION TO THEIR WORK AND PERSONAL SCHEDULES. END QUOTE.

3. KASSOF BELIEVES THAT UNLESS STRONG STEPS TAKEN BEYOND MERE PROTEST, HUNGARIAN SECURITY ORGANS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO POINT OUT TO KKI AND MFA (ASSUMING NEITHER OF LATTER INITIATED EXPULSION) THAT SUCH DRASTIC ACTIONS AGAINST VISITING FOREIGN SCHOLARS DO NOT INHIBIT EXCHANGES OF INTEREST TO HUNGARY. WHILE DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT GOH SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF DAMAGE WHICH UNSUPPORTED CHARGES AND EXPULSIONS WILL DO TO HUNGARY'S INTERESTS IN SCHOLARLY EXCHANGES, WE WOULD PREFER THAT IREX DISCUSS CIRCUMSTANCES OF EXPULSION WITH DEAK IN PERSON BEFORE DECIDING ON MESSAGE TO KKI. RIGHT NOW WE BELIEVE, AS DOES KASSOF, THAT EMBASSY'S VIEW (PARA 6 REFTEL) OF PRESENT GOH ATTITUDE TOWARD SCHOLARS WITH DEAK'S BACKGROUND IS CORRECT. KASSOF SAYS IREX IS NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT RENEWED LIMITATIONS ON THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND RESEARCH OF ITS SCHOLARS IN EASTERN EUROPE, PARTICULARLY SINCE IREX HAS INVESTED SO MUCH HARD WORK AND TIME OVER THE YEARS TO GIVE HUNGARIAN AND OTHER SCHOLARS AS NEARLY IDEAL STUDY CONDITIONS AS POSSIBLE. ASSUMING THAT FACTS OF DEAK INCIDENT ARE AS DEAK STATED TO EMBASSY AND ARE NOT MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN IMPLIED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, WE SHARE KASSOF'S VIEW THAT STRONG ACTION BY IREX IS NECESSARY IF GOH REFUSES TO RE-CIND EXPULSION ORDER AGAINST DEAK. (FYI: ACCORDING TO KASSOF, DEAK STATED HE DOES NOT WISH RETURN TO HUNGARY AT THIS TIME. END FYI.) QUESTION THEN WOULD BE WHETHER DRAFT TELEX CITED IN PARA. 2 SHOULD BE SENT OR WHETHER LESS DRASTIC BUT EQUIVALLY EFFECTIVE STEP MIGHT BE THREATENED, SUCH AS CANCELLATION OF NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAM. THIS WOULD BE ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS DRASTIC STEP THAN ONE PRESENTLY IN KASSOF'S MIND, BUT WOULD NOT VICTIMIZE PRESENT GROUP OF HUNGARIAN SCHOLARS IN US AND US SCHOLARS IN HUNGARY.

4. RE. PARA. 4 REFTEL, KASSOF EMPHASIZED THAT DEAK LEFT HUNGARY LEGALLY, WITH REGULARLY ISSUED PASSPORT AND EXIT PERMIT, IN MID-1940S. UNLESS MFA HAS CONTRARY INFO, THERE-
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FORE, DEAK CLEARLY NOT IN CATEGORY OF ILLEGAL EMIGRANTS AMONG NOMINEES WHOM GOH RECENTLY HAS REFUSED TO ACCEPT.

5. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON COURSE OF ACTION IREX PROPOSES TO TAKE AND OTHER POSSIBLE LESS DRASTIC STEPS WHICH WOULD IMPROVE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH U.S. SCHOLARS CAN WORK IN HUNGARY.

6. EMBASSY ALSO REQUESTED OBTAIN CLARIFICATION FROM MFA OF

STATEMENT REPORTED REFTEL THAT DEAK WAS ILLEGAL EMIGRANT. EMBASSY SHOULD STATE THAT IREX TAKING MOST SERIOUS VIEW OF ACTION AGAINST DEAK BUT WISHES TO ESTABLISH ALL RELEVANT FACTS AND CHECK ON ALLEGATIONS BEFORE PRESENTING ITS VIEWS.

7. COMMENT: WHILE DEPARTMENT AWARE OF HUNGARIAN SENSITIVITIES IN MATTER OF PERSONS WHO LEFT HUNGARY ILLEGALLY AFTER SECOND WORLD WAR (PARA. 4 REFTEL), WE ARE CONCERNED BY MFA REQUEST THAT SUCH PERSONS NOT BE SENT TO HUNGARY BY U.S. INSTITUTIONS. QUITE ASIDE FROM FACT THAT MANY PERSONS WHO DESIRE TO PURSUE SPECIALIZED WORK WILL BE OF HUNGARIAN ORIGIN, SUCH AN ATTITUDE RAISES BROADER QUESTIONS OF PERSONAL TRAVEL TO HUNGARY BY U.S. CITIZENS OF HUNGARIAN ORIGIN. SINCE 1963 AMNESTY, AND MOST RECENTLY DURING CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS, GOH HAS CONSTANTLY ASSURED US OF ITS INTENTIONS REGARDING DUAL NATIONALS. EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS ON METHOD AND TIMING OF PURSUING THIS BROADER ISSUE REQUESTED.

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